

2/25/96

Sent In Order To See
Jn. 9:1-12, 35-39

Blindness has to be one of the most difficult things in life, in that you have to be totally dependent on something or someone else for everything.

And at the same time it must certainly be quite a challenge to see how much more one would be dependent on God for everything!

* having lost the sight of one eye it certainly crosses my mind at times, how much I would be affected if I lost the my sight in the other eye!

The story of the healing of the blind man by Jesus is a beautiful picture of every person who does not know Jesus as Lord and Savior and in need of spiritual sight, so we want to carefully observe the four-step process that takes this man from utter physical blindness to ultimate spiritual sight.

- I.** The condition of the blind man is described by the words of Jesus. vs. 1-5
- II.** The condition of the blind man is healed by the works of Jesus. vs. 6-7
- III.** The condition of the blind man is turned to a witness for Jesus. vs. 8-12
- IV.** The condition of the blind man led him to the worship of Jesus. vs. 35-39

I. The condition of the blind man is described by the words of Jesus. vs. 1-5

A. The Lord Jesus was going through the Temple to avoid being stoned by the Jews as His eye caught a blind man. 8:59-9:1

- 1.** His physical condition is said to be blind.
 - a.** Blindness was a common occurrence due to the unsanitary conditions that existed.
 - b.** Blindness in this case was from birth.

2. The timing is most interesting.

- a.** It would appear that this took place as Jesus was leaving the temple which is still the day after the last day of the Feast as Jesus was teaching in the treasury. 8:20
- b.** Some think the event took place some time after and point to the fact that it was a Sabbath when Jesus healed the blind man. 9:14
 * I personally believe it happened as He was leaving on the same day, perhaps the man was sitting at one of the gates.

B. The disciples of Jesus asked Him, who was responsible for the man's blind condition? vs. 2

- 1.** Their thinking was that there was two possibilities.

13

- a. The man himself had sinned.
- b. The parents of the man had sinned.
- 2. The belief of the day was responsible for their conclusions.
 - a. The Jews believed that a child could sin while in the womb.
 - * Maybe the disciples remembered the words of Jesus to the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda, "Go and sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you". 5:14
 - b. The Jews believed in some circles in transmigration or pre-existence of the soul from Plato.
 - 1) Today it is known as reincarnation.
 - 2) The Essenes who were the other religious party during the New Testament time taught this.
 - c. The Jews also knew that God had promised that He would visit the sins of the parents to the third and fourth generation. Ex. 20:5, Deut. 5:9
 - 1) This text does not teach that God will punish the children for the parents.
 - 2) The context implies that if a lifestyle of sin is passed on from one generation to the next without God's intervention, then God's judgment will continue

12

- C. The Lord Jesus corrects their wrong theology. vs. 3-5
 - 1. The condition of the man was neither due to his own sin nor his parents' sins. vs. 3a-c
 - a. The Scriptures teach that God does not punish children for their parents' sins. Ezk. 18:20
 - b. The Scriptures do not teach that pre-natal sin is possible nor the pre-existence of one's soul.
 - c. The Scriptures do teach that all corruption, deformities and abnormalities are a result of the fall. Gen. 3, Rom. 5:12
 - d. This is not the world that God intended but it is that which is tainted by the fall and which is in constant rebellion against God.
 - 1) Too often people want to blame God for what takes place yet it is the result of sin and man's choices!
 - 2) To the person who does not know Jesus, this is the best he or she will ever have it, the believer on the other hand will one day live in a world where Jesus will reign!
 - * No sorrows, pain or tears!
 - 2. The condition of the man was going to be used to manifest the works of God. vs. 3d
 - a. This passage either is teaching that God had this man to be born blind just

13

for this time of healing, which would make God unjust and unfair, which I reject.

- b. Or this passage is teaching that the natural deformity brought about by sin was going to be used by God to reveal His works, this I believe is the correct meaning of the passage.

* The punctuation makes all the difference in the world, a period should be placed after "sinned" rather than a colon.(Morgan)

* The KJV is "parents".

- 3. Jesus was sent to do the works of the Father. vs. 4-5

- a. The fact that Jesus was sent is mentioned twenty-six times in John and is implied eighteen other times .

- b. The phrase of "day and night" refers to the Lord's limited time to work, since it is six months till He is crucified.

- 1) It implies an allotted time for His mission.

- 2) It implies sufficient time to accomplish it.

- 4. Jesus was the light of the world. vs. 5

- a. He is the One who provide man with all the necessary things for life, beginning at conception.

12

- b. He is the One who illuminates man's heart spiritually to see Himself separated from God.

- c. This is the second "I AM".

- 1) In chapter eight, it has the article indicating that Jesus is the light of the world forever. 8:12

- 2) In our text it has no article indicating that He was to them throughout the remaining time of six months.

The condition of the blind man was described by the words of Jesus!

II. The condition of the blind man is healed by the works of Jesus. vs. 6-7

- A. The process is described. vs.6

- 1. Jesus spat on the ground.

- a. There was a belief that the spittle of a man had beneficial power.

- b. The Jews forbided the use of spittle on the Sabbath day, all one could do on the Sabbath day was to maintain life, if in severe danger, but never better it!

- 2. Jesus made clay of the spit.

- a. The people must of been surprised.

- b. Others must of been disgusted.

13

3. Jesus anointed the eyes of the blind man with clay.
 - a. The manner might of seemed as mochery of the man to some.
 - b. The manner to others must of seemed superstitious.
4. Jesus never healed any two people in the same manner.
 - a. At one time by the decapolis, Jesus took aside a man who was deaf and had an impediment of speech, He put His fingers in the man's ears and He spat and touched the man's tongue, healing him. Mk. 7:32-33
 - b. Another time a blind man was brought to Jesus as He came to Bethsaida and Jesus led him out of town, spat in the man's eyes, put His hands upon him and asked him if he could see? The man said, that he saw men like trees walking and once again Jesus put His hands upon the man's eyes and he saw clearly. Mk. 8:22-25
 - c. If we are going to follow a partten then we must ask, how did Jesus spit?
 - 1) Did He just use the spit in his mouth or did He hack it up?
 - 2) Did He at other times spit in the man's eyes and them throw the dirt in his eyes or the revese?

12

* Do you see how foolish formulas and pattens for healing are? The key is faith and obedience to the words of Jesus as is recorded!

- B. The proclamation is declared. vs. 7
 1. He heard the word, Go, yet he was blind.
 2. He obeyed what he heard and washed in the Pool of Siloam, though he could of argued to go to a nearer one.
 3. He went, washed and came seeing.
 - * Even as Elisha sent Naaman the leper to wassh in the Jordan. 2Kings 5:10-14
- C. The prophetic significance of the pool was of Jesus.
 1. The name "Siloam" means sent, even as Jesus was sent by the Father to heal the blind man by sending him to the Pool of Siloam.
 2. The Pool was also the one from which they drew water for the Feast of Tabernacles or "lights" even as the blind man would receive light into his eyes.
 3. The water was sent from the spring of Gihon to the Pool o f Siloam through Hezekiah's tunnel that he had carved out during the siege by Sennecharib. 2Kings 20:20, 2Chron. 32:30
 - * The tunnel is approximatley 563 yards or about 1700 feet long, in a zig-zag

shape due to the excavation for both ends.

4. The freshness of the water of Siloam are mentioned by Isaiah. Is. 8:6
5. This is the only record of a blind man being healed of a congenital condition.
 - a. There is also no record of a blind man being healed in the entire Old Testament.
 - b. There are more blind people healed by Jesus than any other type of infirmity in the New Testament.
 - * It was one of the signs of the coming Messiah!

The condition of the blind man was healed by the works of Jesus!

III. The condition of the blind man is turned to a witness for Jesus. vs. 8-12

- A. The people who knew him witnessed in astonishment. vs. 8
 1. The neighbors who were very familiar with the presence of the blind beggar probably at the temple as well as those who had seen that he was blind before.
 - a. Even as the lame man at the gate called Beautiful was known and the people were amazed at his healing. Acts 3

- b. Beggars and disable people are landmarks in many countries, particularly around religious sights to plead the mercy of God.
2. Their question was, "Is not this he who sat and begged?"
 - a. They could not believe their eyes.
 - b. They might of thought they were making a mistake.
- B. The people as they witnessed the man healed had various responses. vs. 9
 1. Some said, "This is he".
 2. Others said, "He is like him".
 3. He said, "It is I" and kept saying, "It is I".
- C. The people asked for his personal witness of how his eyes were opened? vs. 10-12
 1. When a miracle takes place, especially in a physical healing, people always ask "how" not "who" healed you. vs. 10
 2. The blind man was a faithful witness by declaring that a man called Jesus made clay and anointed his eyes and told him to go to the pool of siloam and to wash and in doing so he received his sight. vs. 11
 - a. He gave a witness to the voice of Jesus, as to what he had heard, for he never saw Jesus.

13

- b. He gave a witness to the authority of Jesus by his obedience to the command.
- c. He gave a witness to the power of Jesus by the sight he had received.
- 3. The people asked for the whereabouts of the man Jesus, to which he answered, "I don't know". vs. 12
 - a. The name of Jesus was already marked by the religious leaders as they were seeking to arrest and kill Him. 9:22
 - b. The man did not know where Jesus was, for when he returned, Jesus was already gone.

The condition of the blind man is turned to a witness for Jesus!

IV. The condition of the blind man led him to the worship of Jesus. vs. 35-39

- A. Jesus sought the blind man after he had been ex-communicated. vs. 35-36
 - 1. He had told the Jewish leaders that he believed Jesus was a man, a prophet and a man of God. vs. 11, 17, 38
 - 2. He had been condemned for being born in sins and for attempting to teach them on spiritual matters. vs. 34

12

- 3. He was cast out of the temple but sought out and found by Jesus to become part of the living temple of God, the church.
 - a. Jesus asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" vs. 35
 - b. The blind man asked who it was, in order to believe in Him? vs. 36
 - c. Jesus reveals that it was He whom he had seen and talking too. vs. 37
 - d. The blind man's response was two-fold. vs. 38
 - 1) He called Jesus Lord and confessed that he believed.
 - 2) He commenced to worship Jesus.
 - * The word worship "proskuneo" means to kiss after the custom of prostrating oneself before a person and kissing their feet.
 - e. The blind man was one of the sheep who responded to the voice of Jesus as He sought him out as the "Good Shepherd", in order to bring him into the fold. 10:14-16
- B. Jesus proclaimed the purpose of his coming. vs. 39
 - 1. He came into the world for judgment not condemnation.
 - * The word judgment "krima" means the result or decision not the process of judging.

2. Those who can not see spiritually may see by believing in Him, namely the blind man.
 3. Those who see physically but refuse to see spiritually by not believing in Him, may be blinded to the truth, namely the Jews.
* The result is the outcome of each person's personal decision.
- C. Jesus wants us to see some basic truths in the story of the blind man.
1. The congenital blindness of the blind man from birth represents the spiritual blindness of every person that is born into this world.
 2. The only hope for the blind man were the words of Jesus that manifested in His work of a miracle to gain his physical and spiritual sight.
* No man could help him!
 3. The witness of each of us will be tested as to whether we will be a faithful witness and give Jesus the glory without compromise.
 4. The cost may be great but we will never be alone, for He is always with us!

Conclusion

The story of the blind man that Jesus healed is a beautiful picture of every person who does not know Jesus as Lord and Savior, in need of spiritual sight.

- I. The condition of the blind man was described by the words of Jesus.
- II. The condition of the blind man was healed by the works of Jesus.
- III. The condition of the blind man was turned to a witness for Jesus.
- IV. The condition of the blind man was led to the worship of Jesus.

The condition of the blind man led him to the worship of Jesus!